

25X1

25X1A9A

17 February 1956

This is submitted in accordance with the request levied by the

25X1

It concerns comments
on the extent of military construction at Soviet Arctic airfields.

25X1

NSA review completed

25X1

Project S-47: "Extent of Military Construction at Soviet Arctic Airfields."

Much of the increased construction activity in the Arctic undertaken by The Housing and Billetting Directorate of the Ministry of Defense (KEU, M.O.), also known as the "Quartering Directorate of M.O., is a reflection of several operations not exclusively military in nature. Among these operations are the research projects for the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), the proposed expansion of shipping on the Northern Sea Route, and the general development of the area as a whole. Construction work in the Arctic is frequently performed by military construction units assigned to the Chief Directorate of the Northern Sea Route (GUSMP). KEU is responsible for furnishing quarters for all troops and, therefore, is presumably furnishing quarters for these military construction units.

Recent evidence of increased research activities in the Arctic indicates need for support facilities, i.e., billeting, storage, etc., for staging operations for the forthcoming International Geophysical Year. It appears that Tiksi will be the focal point for intensive activity connected with the IGY expeditions and the drifting ice stations (SP's 4, 5, and 6).

25X1

25X1

Construction work for GUSMP being performed by military construction units is probably behind schedule and not ready for GUSMP personnel

25X1

who probably are to assist in IGY activities.

25X1

GUSMP intends to expand its operations and would therefore require expanded port facilities and chandlery services at all its ports. Anderna, Tiksi, and Mys Shmidt are the sites of increased construction activities for GUSMP. This construction work is being performed by military construction units assigned to GUSMP.

Anderna, Nar'yan Mar and Arkhangel'sk have been involved in air-lift activity in the past, apparently more in support of Northern Sea Route shipping activity than in support of drifting ice stations. Expansion of either of these activities would presumably require expansion of ship chandlery and aircraft servicing facilities. Again, military construction units build for GUSMP, and KEU cares for the military construction units.

25X1

Available information has revealed that military airfield construction has been carried out by the Central Directorate of Capital Airfield Construction (TsUKAS), of the Ministry of Defense

25X1

However, there has been no indication that any TsUKAS unit has been in evidence in the Central Arctic area.

Such identified construction objects as the fuel storage tanks, ware-

2

houses, dwelling houses, dining halls, kindergartens and settlement roads, are facilities necessary to any proposed expansion of an area. Such expansion in the Arctic has been in evidence since the end of World War II. The general build up of the Arctic apparently is continuing. The Northern Sea Route's Polar Aviation unit is actively continuing its airfield development activities and the Ministry of Defense Organizations have been improving airfields and emplacing radar.

development is evident in port expansions underway and the large expansion of Eastern Sector Northern Sea Route traffic projected by a Soviet official through 1960. Similarly, the Civil Air Fleet is expanding its flight routes to include the Arctic which presages the possibility of the assimilation of semi-colonial areas into the economic administrative structure of the USSR.